

by the introduction of the tobacco into the rectum; the disease assumes a chronic form, and usually, after a long illness, the patient recovers. The infusion is made very weak—three grains of tobacco to four ounces of boiling water—ft. enema: To be repeated whenever the spasms return. After seeing more of this treatment, and carefully watching the cases, we may be able to give the results more in detail for your extensively read Journal.

U. S. FRIGATE RARITAN, off *Montevideo*.

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ART. X.—*On the Topography of Singapore*. By D. C. McLEOD, M. D., Surgeon U. S. N. (Communicated in a letter to Thos. Harris, M. D., Chief Bureau Med. and Surg., U. S. N.)

BEFORE leaving China I take occasion to transmit to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery some remarks on the topography of Singapore, and its advantages as a place of resort for any of our national vessels on this station that may desire to make a healthy port on account of sickness.

This island belongs to Great Britain, and has been in her possession since the year 1819 or thereabouts. It lies between the parallels of 1° and 2° north, and in longitude 103° east of Greenwich. It is situated at the southern extremity of the peninsula of Malacca, from which it is separated by a strait a quarter of a mile wide. The whole island is about twenty miles long and eight broad. Its face is generally level, though there are many pretty elevations resembling in some measure the hammocks of our own southern and western regions, and affording sites for villas and cottages. The town of Singapore is on the south side of the island. The English, Chinese, and Malays have separate localities, the first being in the middle, the Chinese on the west, and the Malays on the east. A narrow river separates the English and Chinese, and a marsh the English and Malays. A verdant esplanade fronts the middle town, and affords a relief to the eye most refreshing to the invalid coming from sea, whilst an agreeable promenade, on foot or in palanquin, enables him to renovate his enervated system.

The supplies for sick and well are abundant, and procured with great facility. Water is obtained from private reservoirs and brought off in "tanks." Flour made from wheat of India growth soon becomes sour, and hence the bread, though excellent for immediate use, does not keep at sea. "Fresh provisions" are got readily and reasonably.

Notwithstanding this place never has the sun more than 24° and 25° north or south of it, and that it has marshes in and around it, yet at this period no settlement in the East Indies has been so free from disease.

Europeans now and then fall victims to coups de soleil from imprudence, and sometimes suffer from dysentery, but the bills of mortality show a smaller number of deaths (including troops) than almost any European or American seaport in the temperate regions.

Catarrhal complaints of an ephemeral nature are not uncommon, but they are too slight to require medical treatment.

The thermometer ranges from 75° to 85° (Fahrenheit); perennial breezes and diurnal showers one-third of the year make a temperature of 80° pleasant and refreshing.

The frigate *Columbia*, Com. Reed, landed her sick at Singapore and soon became healthy. The crew of this ship, after almost unparalleled suffering, were restored to health in the course of a month without being transferred to sick quarters on shore.

Ships arriving here during the south-west monsoon and bound to China, come generally through the straits of Funda, and pass within a day's sail of Singapore, and vessels coming through the Straits of Malacca pass within sight.

Vessels that come to China during the north-east monsoon, take what is known as the eastern passage, viz., between Java and Borneo, east of the Celebes, and through the Bashee straits; few large ships venturing to beat up the China Sea. For vessels suffering from dysentery, fevers, or cholera in China, no place offers a better climate than Singapore, and the run can be made, with the N. E. monsoon, in eight or ten days.

The anchorage of Singapore is in a roadstead, but so surrounded by islets as to be very nearly land-locked.

This ship lay about three miles from the shore, in seven fathoms water.

The increasing commercial importance of this island makes it the very best point at which the passing events in this part of the world can be soonest heard.

Some not very extended attempts have been made at agriculture, but not with much success. Our respected consul, Mr. Balestier, has embarked in the sugar culture and is sanguine of success. The nutmeg, betel nut, (areca palm,) sago, piper betel, piper nigrum, and most of the intertropical fruits are found on Singapore.

U. S. FRIGATE *CONSTITUTION*, *Bocca Tigris*, August 20, 1845.